

2010 Honorees

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Clarence Bailey

Clarence Bailey, a native of Longview, graduated from Mary C. Womack High School in 1950. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in physical education and biology from Wiley College in Marshall.

Following seven years of employment with Longview Independent School District, he established Bailey's Insurance Company in 1967. Clarence is married to the former Mavis Blankenship. They have one daughter, Sherry Lenel, wife of Johnny Smith, and two granddaughters. Throughout the years, Clarence has held the following volunteer positions: trustee of Good Shepherd Medical Center, board member of the Oil Belt Association of Life Underwriters, president, vice president and secretary of the Longview Independent School District Board and treasurer of the board of Wiley College.

Currently, Clarence serves as Associate Pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Longtime community volunteer, Sally Barron, accurately described Clarence Bailey's contribution to Longview when she noted, "In recent years, I have seen him grow spiritually and share the light of Christ with the many lives he has touched. His commitment to others is evident as he reaches out to his fellow man, crossing racial and socioeconomic lives as a friend and leader supporting unity in our community."



Mickey Melton 1955-2010

After receiving the Unity Award in January, Mr. Melton passed away on April 10, 2010.

Mickey Melton graduated from Longview High School in 1973 and earned a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from Texas A&M in 1976.

He married Rebecca Jenkins in 1977, following a two and a half year period in Austin, returned to Longview where he was employed at R. Lacy Services. The Melton's have three daughters.

Mickey's community involvement included membership in the Longview ISD Foundation, Longview Community Ministries, Presbyterian Camps and Circle of Friends at Gilmont. He served on the Longview ISD Board from 1989 to 1997 and was named Distinguished Alumnus of Longview High School in 2002.

According to Cissy Ward, charter member of the Race Relations Committee, the fact there is a race relations committee in Longview is the result of an editorial written by Mickey several years ago regarding "the 800 pound gorilla sitting in our living room," referring to the issue of race in Longview. His article opened dialogue between ethnic groups and led to the formation of the Race Relations Committee. Mickey served on the boards of the Hi-way 80 Rescue Mission and Camp Gilmont.

He was a member of the Greggton Rotary Club and was an Elder at Alpine Presbyterian Church.

For more information call: 903-237-1019

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Links:

- [1]
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- [2] <http://pip.longviewtexas.gov/service/partners-prevention-youth-activitiesmentoringrace-relations>
- [3] <http://pip.longviewtexas.gov/services-contact#PIP@LongviewTexas.gov>